



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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1997 Survey for Gypsy Moth Complete

OLYMPIA -- For more than 20 years, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has successfully detected and eradicated new introductions of gypsy moth, a harmful, non-native pest. During the 1997 trapping season 25,185 traps were placed throughout the state to detect reproducing populations of gypsy moth and to evaluate of the treatment program's success. Results from the 1997 trapping season produced 69 catches from July to October.

This year's catch total of 69 moths is down from recent years. In 1996, 91 moths were caught and 149 were caught in 1995. Sixteen new catch areas were recorded in 1997 with the following number of moth catches in each:

Clark Co.	La Center (1)
King Co.	Boulevard Park (1), Buenna (1), Federal Way (1), Kent 3 (4), Petrovitsky Park (3), Sahalee (3), Seattle Port (2)
Pierce Co.	American Lake (1), Crystal Springs (2), Fircrest (2)
San Juan Co.	San Juan Island (1)
Snohomish Co.	Darlington (1), Mays Pond Park (3), Silver Lake 2 (9)
Skamania Co.	Carson (1)

Seven catch areas recorded in 1997 had had previous gypsy moth introductions with the following number of moths caught in each:

Clark Co.	Leverich Park (2), Vancouver WSU (4)
King Co.	Bellevue Golf Course (5), Inverness (2), Kent 4 (6),
Pierce Co.	Tacoma Dome (5), Tacoma Port (4)
Snohomish Co.	Silver Lake (3)
Whatcom Co.	Bellingham (1)

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Otis Methods Development Laboratory, using four distinct DNA analyses to determine strain type analyzed all gypsy moth catches. Of the 69 catches, 67 were found to be European, 1 Far Eastern Asian (A2) and 1 Siberian hybrid (A1.) The European gypsy moths were found in various counties, the Far Eastern Asian was caught in the Tacoma Port, and the Siberian hybrid at the Seattle Port.

WSDA is planning one European gypsy moth eradication site, one Siberian hybrid gypsy moth site, as well as a Far Eastern Asian gypsy moth site as a result of the 1997 survey findings. Egg-mass searching and site definition is continuing at these areas. Next year all catch areas will be trapped at a higher trap density than locations that had zero moth catches in order to locate gypsy moth population centers.

If you have any additional questions regarding the Gypsy Moth Program, please contact Jennifer Boaz at (360) 902-1918.